

Detailed Action

Response to Amendment

1. Applicant's Remarks/Arguments filed on 5/4/2009 regarding claims 1-6 have been fully considered. Claims 1-6 are currently pending.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

2. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with applicant's representative, Mr. Holmes W. Anderson, on 9/15/2009.

The application has been amended for claims 1 and 6 as follows:

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1. (currently amended) Apparatus in an access point in a wireless communications environment including multiple access points and stations, wherein stations gain network access by associating with one or more of the access points, comprising:

~~a receiver~~ an interface for receiving messages from stations indicative of a request to associate with the access point; and

~~computer program code on a computer readable medium, the program code being executed by a processor to:~~

a processor and computer program code on a computer readable medium, the program code being executed by the processor to:

track one or more parameters related to the stations from which the messages have been received in the network;

evaluate the one or more parameters to produce an evaluation; and

select, for a cycle, no more than a predetermined number of stations from which the message was received to become associated with the access point based upon the evaluation, and reject, for the cycle, stations from which the message was received to become associated with the access point but which are not selected because to do so would exceed the predetermined number.

6. (currently amended) Apparatus in an access point in a wireless communications environment including multiple access points and stations, wherein stations gain network access by associating with one or more of the access points, comprising:

~~a receiver~~ an interface for receiving messages from stations indicative of a request to associate with the access point; and

~~computer program code on a computer readable medium, the program code being executed by a processor to:~~

a processor and computer program code on a computer readable medium, the program code being executed by the processor to:

track one or more parameters related to stations from which the messages have been received in the network, wherein the messages include at least some of the one or more parameters;

wherein a parameter may be the number of stations associated with the access point, and wherein another parameter may be the distance of a station from the access point;

evaluate the one or more parameters to produce an evaluation; and

select, for a cycle, no more than a predetermined number of stations from which the message was received to become associated with the access point based upon the evaluation, and reject, for the cycle, stations from which the message was received to become associated with the

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access point but which are not selected because to do so would exceed the predetermined number.

EXAMINER'S STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The present application relates to providing an apparatus in an access point in a wireless communications environment including multiple access points and stations, wherein stations gain network access by associating with one or more of the access points, comprising the unique functions of:

“select, for a cycle, no more than a predetermined number of stations from which the message was received to become associated with the access point based upon the evaluation, and reject, for the cycle, stations from which the message was received to become associated with the access point but which are not selected because to do so would exceed the predetermined number.”

The closest prior art, Karaoguz et al. (US Publication 2004/0054767), discloses a method and system comprising a plurality of wireless stations and access points, wherein the location, coverage area, traffic patterns and other statistical information are gathered to determine the distance range between stations and the access point for the purpose of causing the stations to become associated with the access point. However, Karaoguz fails to anticipate or render obvious the above quoted limitations of the present application. This renders the claims allowable.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue

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fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kevin Mew whose telephone number is 571-272-3141. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:00 am - 5:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Chi Pham can be reached on 571-272-3179. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/K. M./
Examiner, Art Unit 2416

/Chi H Pham/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit
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